Information for File #2005-000914-TWP

Applicant Minnesota Department of Transportation

District 1, Duluth

Corps Contact Timothy W. Peterson

Address 1554 Highway 2

Two Harbors, Minnesota 55616

E-Mail timothy.w.peterson@mvp02.usace.army.mil

Phone (218) 834-6630

Primary County Lake

Section 21, 22, 28, 29, 31, and 32

Township 56N

Range 7W

Information Complete On March 28, 2005

Posting Expires On April 27, 2005

Authorization Type LOP-D

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE: The applicant is proposing to reconstruct TH 61 from 0.6 miles south of CSAH 5 in Silver Bay, Minnesota to 1.7 miles south of TH 1 to meet current design standards, address growing traffic volumes, and increase safety.

The reconstruction project would involve the grading and surfacing along a 4 mile stretch of new alignment to correct substandard horizontal and vertical alignments and provide better stopping sight distances. Some project segments include shifting the roadway inland up to approximately 95 feet. Other segments will be shifting the roadway lakeward up to approximately 113 feet, maximum. The project would require additional right-of-way. The highway would be constructed utilizing New Construction/Reconstruction Standards for a Principle Arterial having an ADT greater than 3,000.

The proposed urban roadway section would feature two 12 foot wide driving lanes and 4-foot-wide inside shoulders (measured to the face of the concrete median curb) and 11.5-foot-wide shoulders (10.0 foot paved, 1.5 foot gravel). Inslopes would be 1V:4H. Backslopes would vary from 1V:3H in normal cut areas to vertical in rock excavation areas. Ditches would be as shallow as possible to minimize impacts to the surrounding area, but of sufficient depth and gradients to provide adequate roadway drainage. Perforated pipe would be placed in the granular subgrade to provide drainage and would outlet to the slopes and into the roadway ditches,

The proposed rural roadway section would feature two 12-foot-wide driving lanes and 11.5-foot-wide shoulders (10.0 foot paved, 1.5 foot gravel). Inslopes would be constructed at 1V:4H. Backslopes would vary from 1V:3H in normal cut areas to vertical in rock excavation areas. Ditches would be as shallow as possible to minimize impacts to the surrounding area, but of sufficient depth and gradients to provide

adequate roadway drainage. Perforated pipe would be placed in the granular subgrade to provide drainage and would outlet to the slopes and into the roadway ditches.

Located 2.8 miles northeast of CSAH 5 (Outer Drive), Bridge 3887 over Palisade Creek would be replaced. The concrete arch would be replaced with a single-span bridge. Slopes have been reduced in this area to 1V:2H to lessen impacts to the creek area. Guardrails would be installed. Other culverts in the project area would be extended or replaced as required.

Traffic would be maintained along the corridor during construction by building the roadway in stages. The existing roadway would be used while segments on the new alignment are constructed. There is no viable detour for this project.

There would be an underpass constructed for the Gitchi-Gami Trail crossing under TH 61 approximately 0.4 miles northeast of CSAH 5. Pedestrians, bicyclists and inline skaters would use the underpass. In the winter the underpass would be available fro snowmobile traffic.

The box culvert for Williams Creek would be extended on the inlet end.

There would be one additional 49-inch-span CMP-A centerline culvert removed and replaced with a 51-inch-span RCP-A plus aprons. The culvert is located outside, and the south west of, the project limits at TH 61 Ref. Pt. 060+00.530.

NAME, AREA AND TYPES OF WATERS (INCLUDING WETLANDS) SUBJECT TO LOSS:

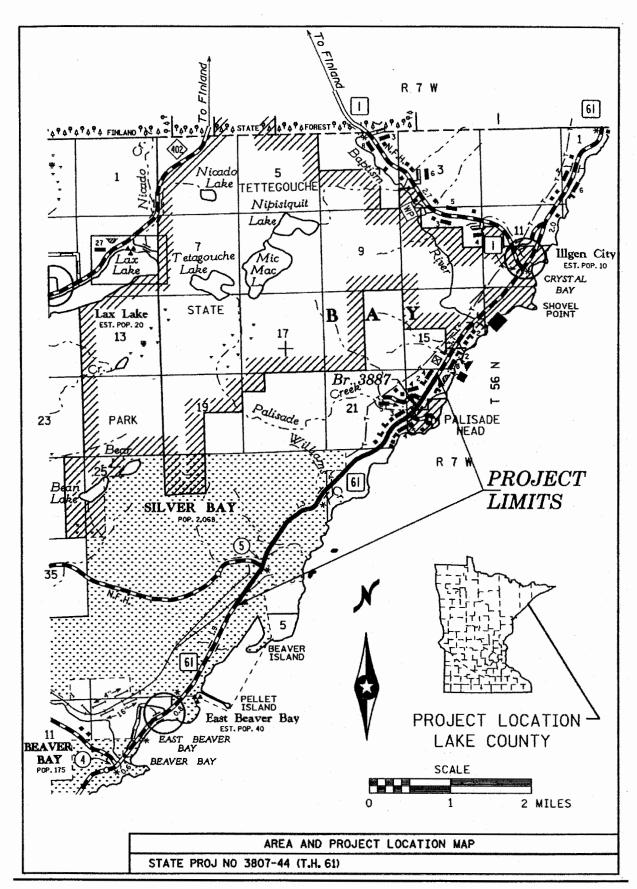
The project would result in the loss of 1.7 acres of shrub wetlands adjacent to Palisade Creek, Williams Creek, and unnamed tributaries to Lake Superior in 9 locations.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: The "No-Build" Alternative, would involve only short-term, minor restoration type activities. These maintenance level activities, while prolonging the useful life of the highway, do not adequately address geometric deficiencies of the highway and related safety issues, or the problems associated with ongoing deterioration of the Palisade Creek Bridge. The further deterioration and decline in condition of the highway and bridge would result in increased disruption to highway users due to maintenance activities. The "No-Build" Alternative is not a viable option because it does not correct the roadway and bridge deficiencies or address bicycle and pedestrian concerns. The "No-Build" Alternative would not accomplish the objective to provide a safe, modern, and convenient roadway for the motoring public and does not result in replacement of a deficient bridge.

The only other alternative considered was the Proposed Alternative.

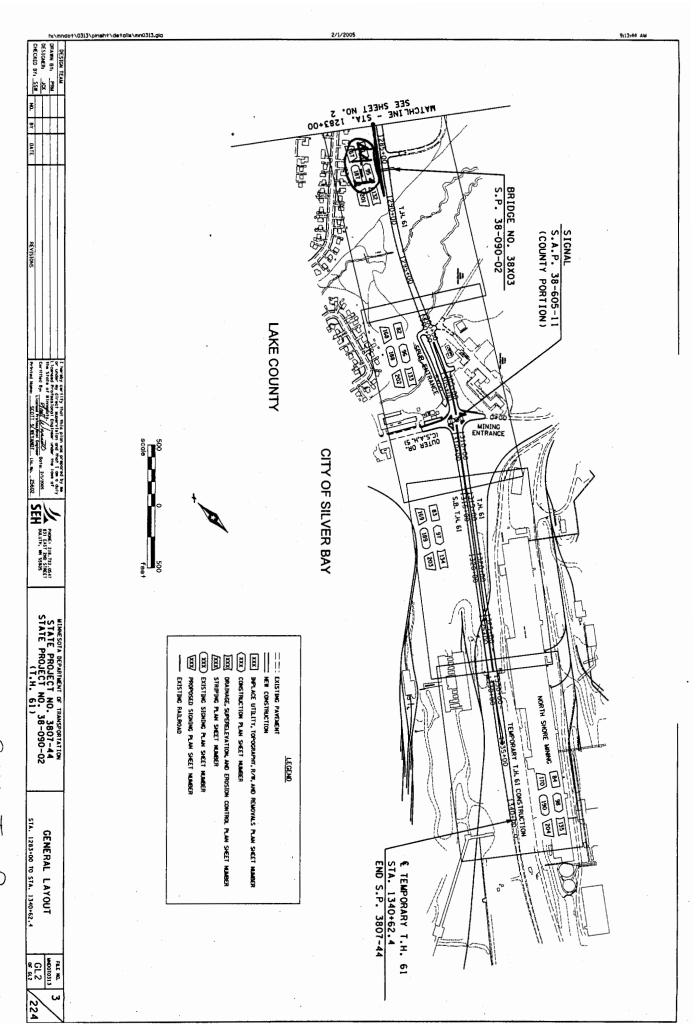
COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: As compensation for the 1.7 acres of wetlands which would be lost due to the project, the applicant is proposing to purchase credits from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) State Wetland Bank.

Drawings See attached, below.



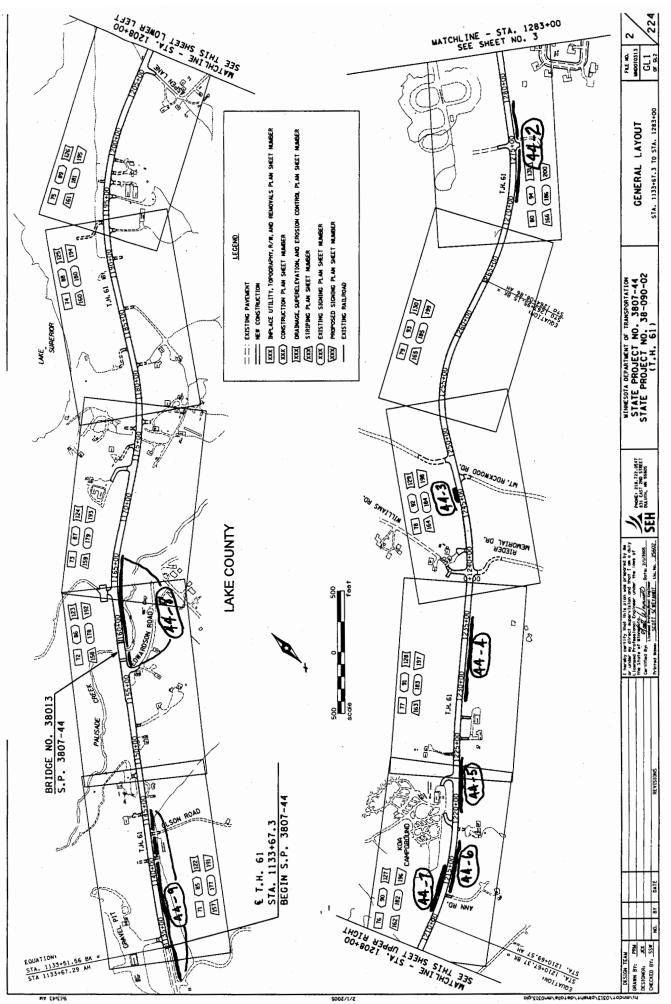
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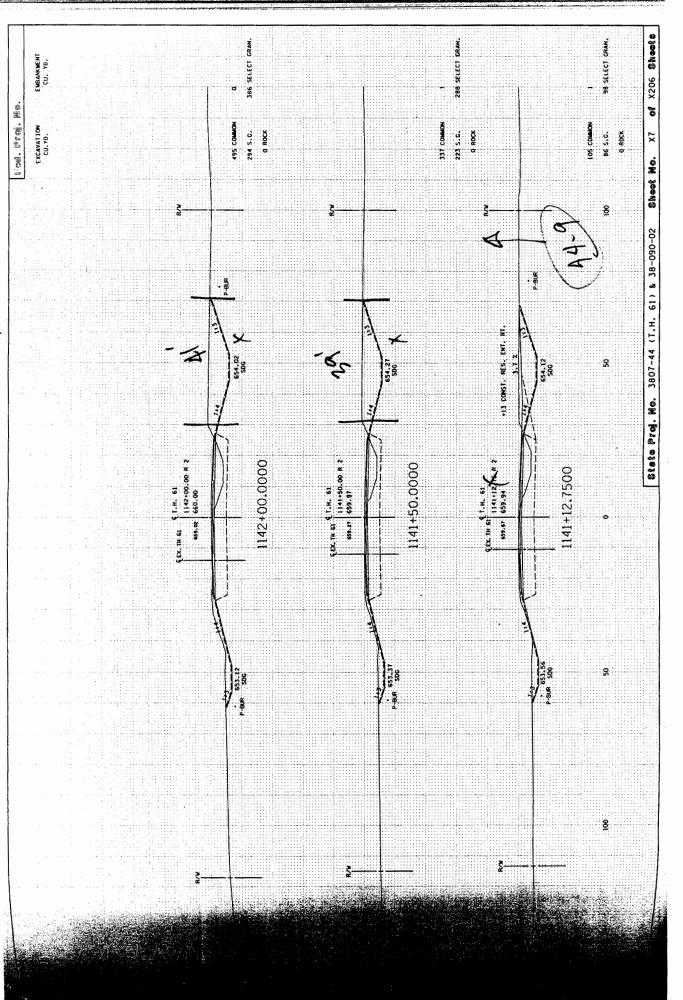


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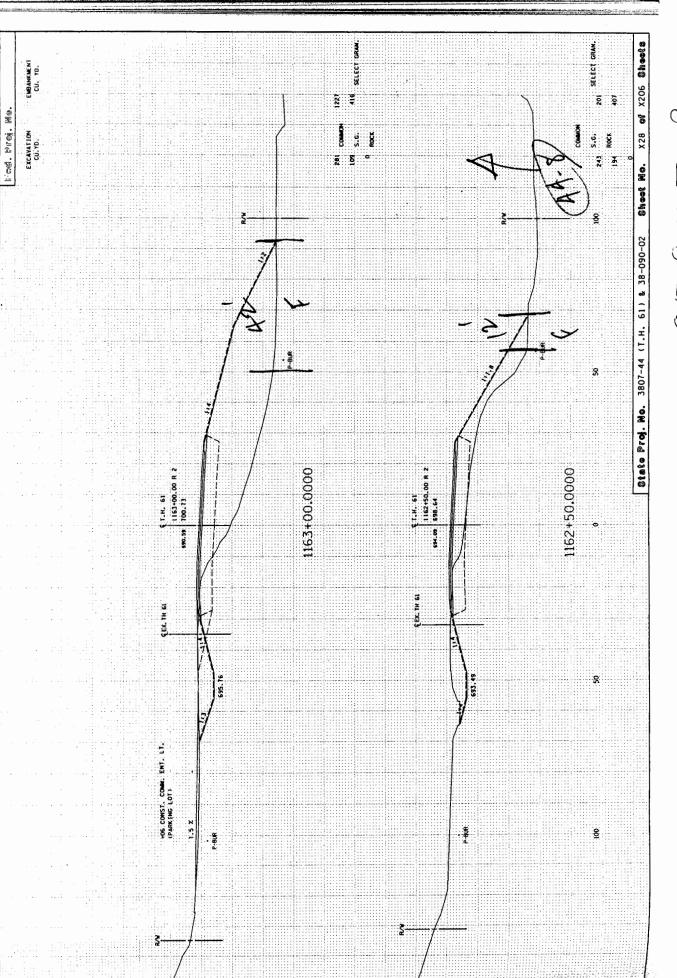
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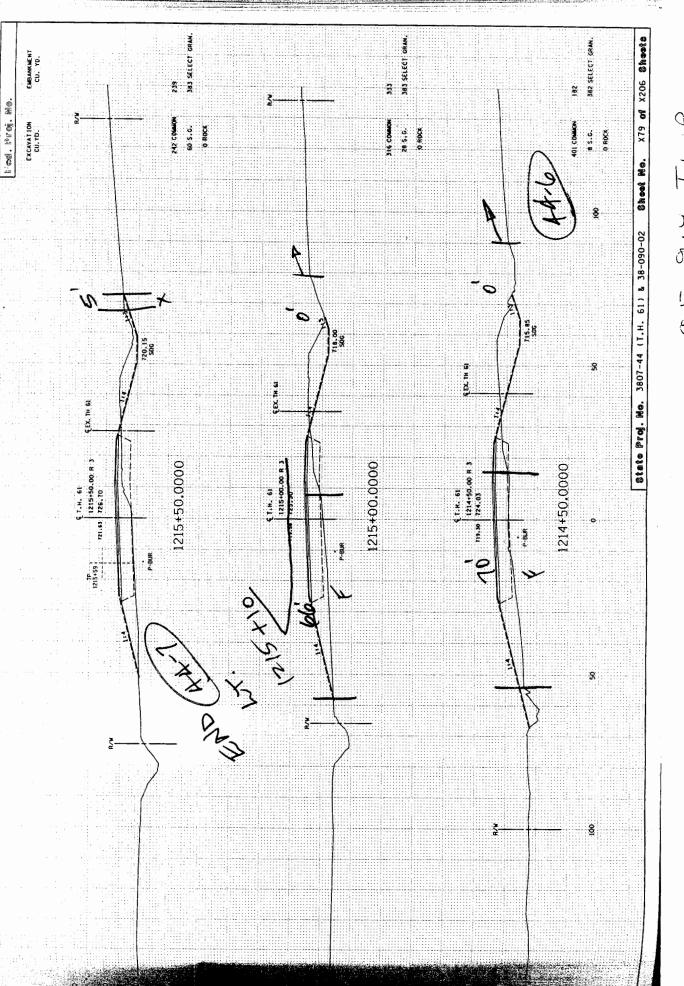
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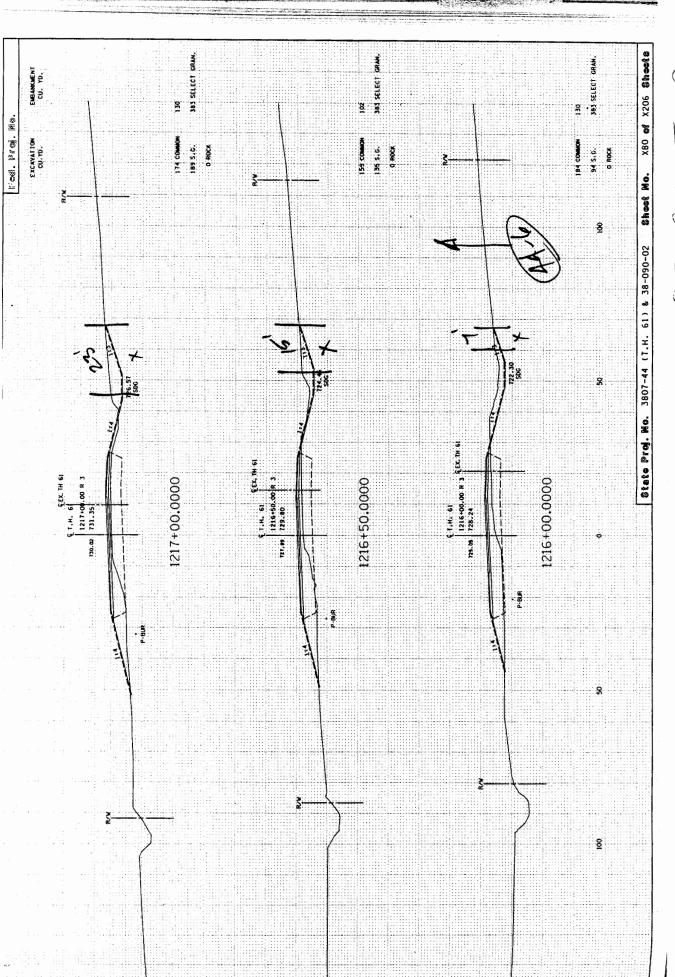
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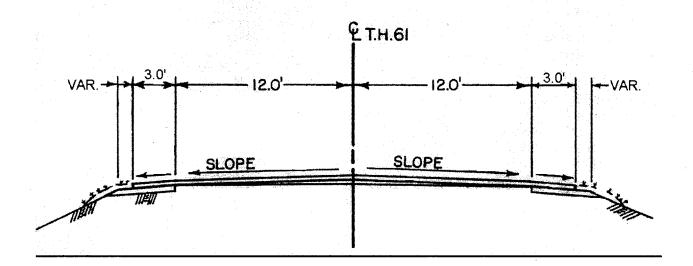
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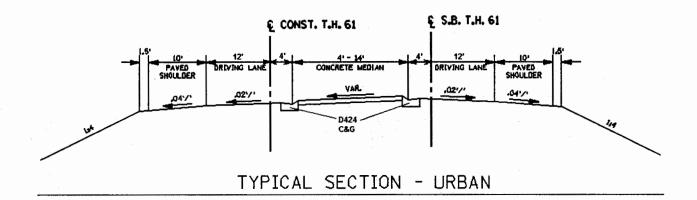
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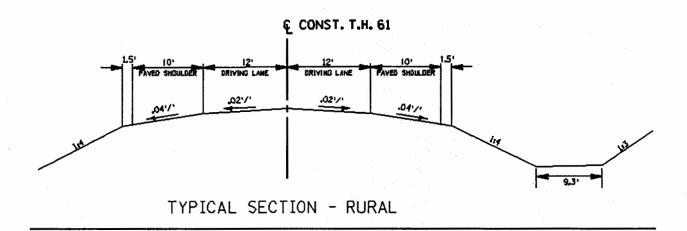
Existing Typical Section

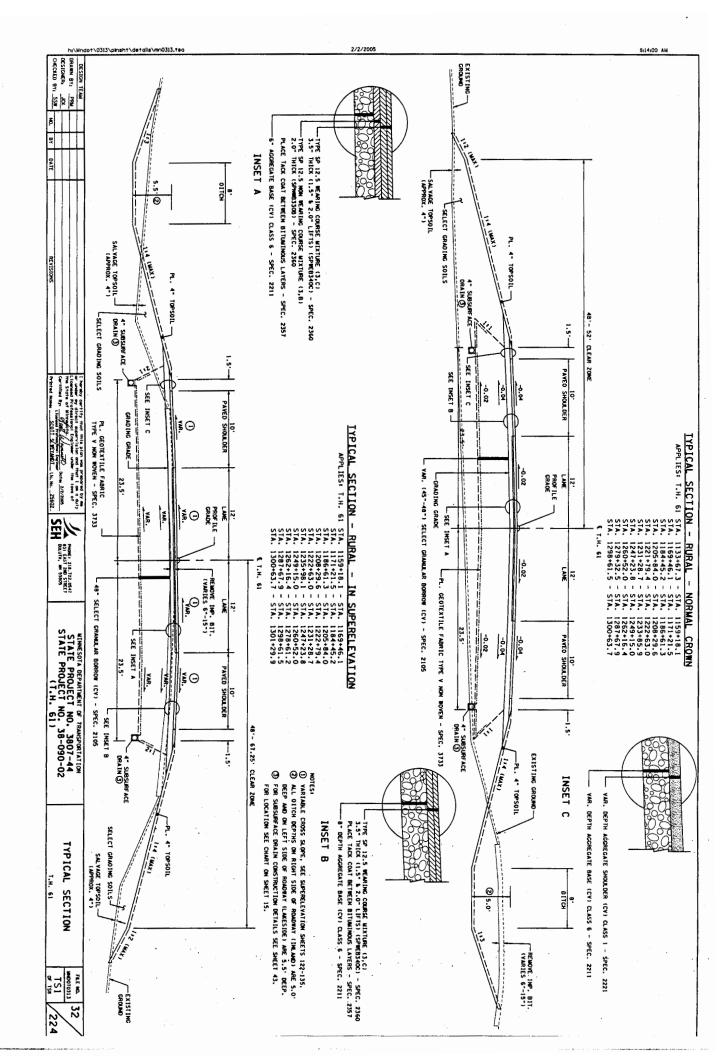


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Proposed Typical Sections







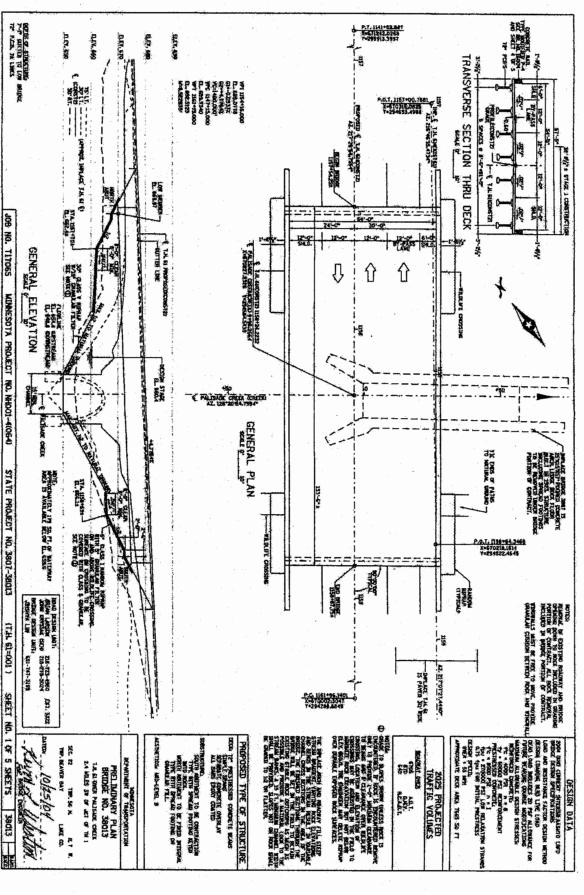
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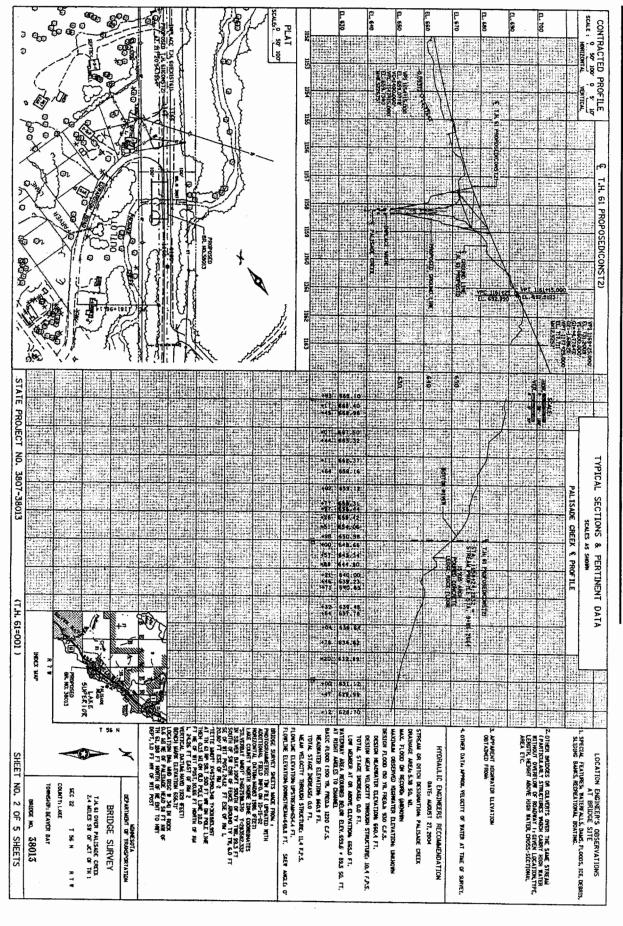
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Preliminary Bridge Plan

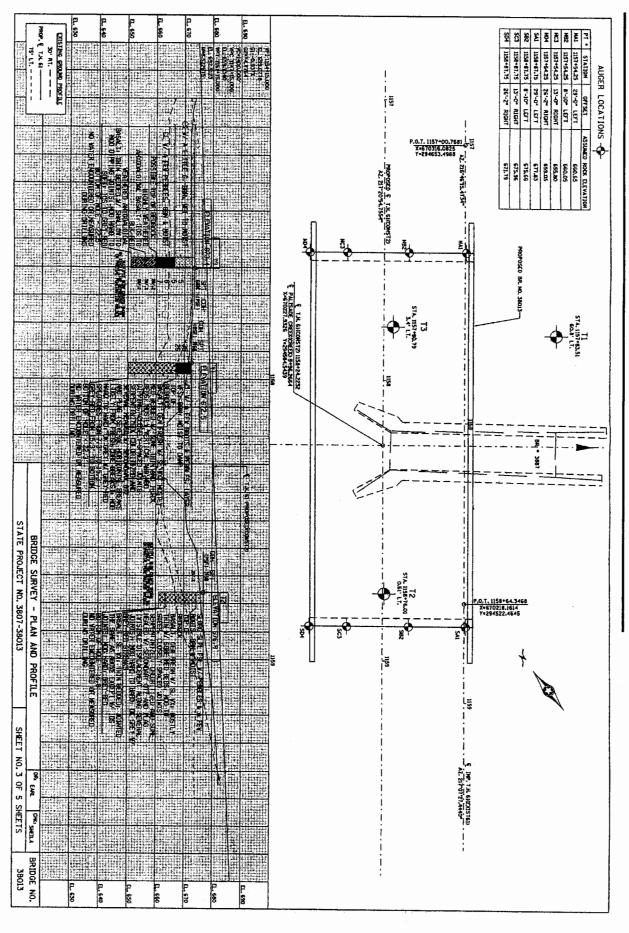


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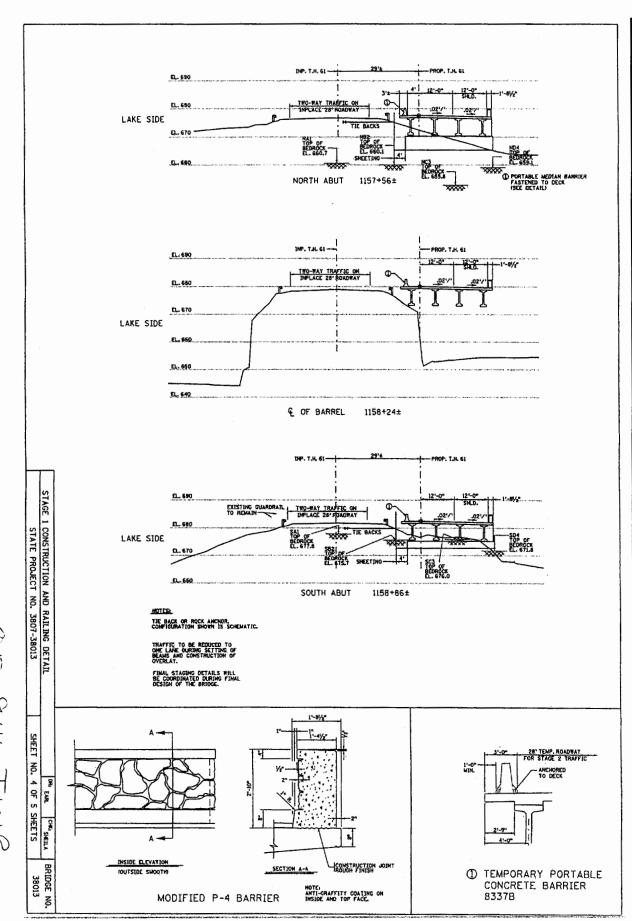
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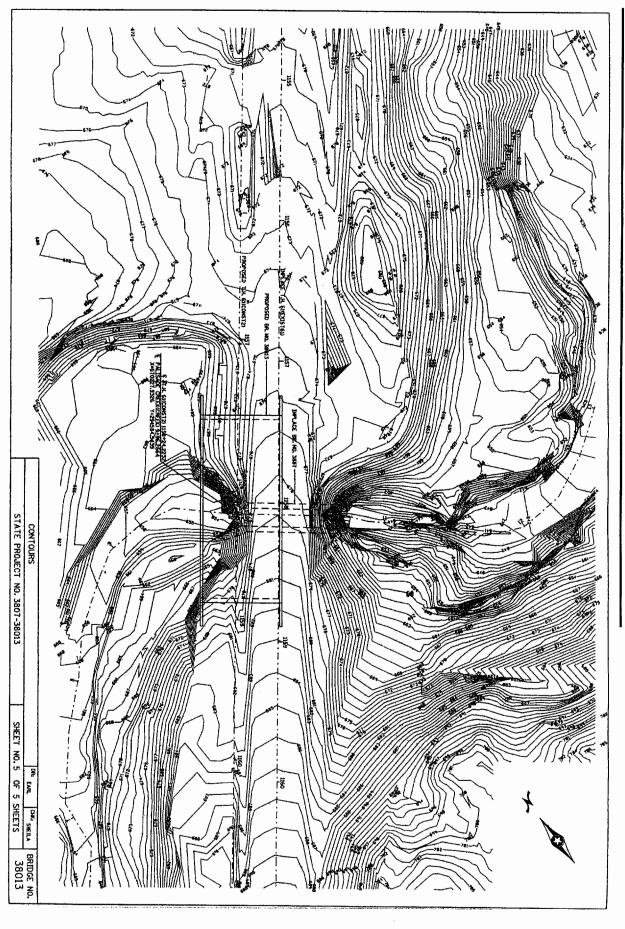


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